(e) whether Government propose to reduce the import duty to 10 per cent to provide relief to the manufacturers; and

(f) by when such a decision is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Generally, utensils made of metal are exempted from excise duty. But excise duty is leviable on tableware, kitchenware of glass or ceramic. Pressure cookers are subjected to excise duty of 10 per cent.

(b) Such information is not maintained.

(c) Information in this respect is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

(d) to (f) Import duty on aluminium circles is 40 per cent which is at par with other articles of ferrous and non-ferrous metal. There are some representations for reduction of import duty on aluminium circles. These representations are under examination.

रिलायंस उद्योग लिमिटेड पर आयकर छापे

6014. **श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम** : क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सुप्रसिद्ध रिलायंस उद्योग लिमिटेड ग्रुप के विभिन्न परिसरों में आयकर विभाग ने हाल ही में छापे मारे हैं, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और वहां जब्त की गई चीज़ों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) और (ख) आयकर विभाग ने हाल में रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड ग्रुप की कोई तलाशियां नहीं ली हैं ।

Amount outstanding against Tata Unisys

6015. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to a news report published in the 'Indian Express' of April 21, 1995 regarding violation of rules by the Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs to favour a private firm and state:

(a) whether it is fact that Tata Unisys owes Government Rs. 2.93 crores as duty on goods the company had imported between 1989 and 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that CBEC Chairman's son is working with Tata Unisys;

(c) if so, whether the company in connivance with the CBEC Chairman, attempted to defraud Government for revenue of Rs. 2.93 crores; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to penalise the company for its attempted defraud by using a Government official?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. However, recovery of fthe amount has been stayed by the Customs Excise & Gold Control) Appellate Tribunal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Investment made by UTI in Telco

6016. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the news-item published in the Investment's Guide of April, 24, 1995 concerning investments made by UTI in Telco and State:

(a) whether it is a fact that UTI about a month ago, bought 15 lakh shares of TELCO at a price between Rs. 525 and 550 and sold them at an average price of Rs. 425 two weeks later;

(b) if so, the quantum of loss suffered by UTI in the deal and the circumstances leading to such a massive loss at the cost of public funds;

(c) whether it is a fact that UTI is again buying TELCO shares at price level of Rs. 500 each;

(d) if so, whether UTI's fresh investments in TELCO are directed at providing support and rigging the company's share price at the behest of Tatas;

(e) if so, whether there is a nexus between the Tatas and senior officials of UTI; and

(f) if so, what steps Government plan to take to identify the UTI officials involved in the deal and fix responsibility for UTI's losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) UTI has informed that it did not undertake these specific transactions.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) UTI has not recently bought TELCO shares in the market at a price of Rs. 500/- per share.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

Recommendations of JPC

6017. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to accept the recomdations of JPC on the Parliamentary Scrutiny of the banking system of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): Government's response to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Parliamentary Scrutiny of the banking system of the country is contained in the Sl. No. 237 (Para No. 16.58) of the Revised Paragraphs of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to enquire into irregularities in securities and banking transactions which was laid in the Parliament on 20th December, 1994.

Memo given by Indian Housewives Federation

6018. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a memorandum given by the Indian Housewives' Federation, an appeal has been made to the Minister to contain and lower, if possible, the price of at least LPG cylinders, baby food, cereals including pulses, edible oils, medicines etc.; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Memorandum presented by the Indian Housewives Federation drew the attention of the Government to the hardships caused to the housewives on account of sharp escalation in prices. It emphasised the need to resist any further price increase